

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2004, claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Cited Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DiFonzo et al (“DiFonzo”) in view of Chang, and rejected claims 2-6, 8-11, and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DiFonzo in view of Chang and further in view of Toy. In making the rejections, the Examiner states:

DiFonzo et al disclose a portable computing system including a lid housing a display screen (see Fig. 1), a base hingedly coupled to the lid and housing processing hardware beneath a keyboard unit, the base comprising a ventilation unit (see Fig. 2) that disperses heat generated by operation of the processing hardware. DiFonzo et al do not disclose an adjustable ventilation interface to change the direction of the warm air output and does not teach the use of the warm air to warm a user's hands. Chang teaches providing adjustable air output vents (27) for a computer keyboard and also teaches using the air output to warm a user's hands (see abstract). The air output vents (27) have inclined vanes (28) and can be rotated to adjust the direction of the air flow (see col. 3, lines 50-54). Airflow is also provided between the keys of the keyboard (see Fig. 2b). It would have been obvious in view of Chang to provide adjustable air vents for the keyboard of DiFonzo et al and to enable use of the warm air output for hand warming, the motivation being to keep the computer user from getting cold hands and to enable manual control of the air output. DiFonzo (6,411,505) in view of Chang (5,828,034) disclose the claimed structure with the exception of a slidable manual controller adjacent to the vent openings to adjust closure of the openings. Toy discloses a manually slidable controller (40) to control the amount of airflow through openings (37). It would have been obvious in view of Toy to use a manually slidable closure with the vents of DiFonzo in view of Chang, the motivation being to control the amount of air flowing through the vents.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections.

DiFonzo does discuss a portable computing system that includes vents for dispersing heat. As the Examiner admits, DiFonzo fails to teach or suggest an adjustable ventilation interface to change the direction of the warm air output and does not teach the use of the warm air to warm a user's hands. The cited art of Chang describes a keyboard that includes a heating element to produce warm air that can be output through vents that are rotatable and have inclined vanes to warm a user's hands. However, as the Examiner admits, neither DiFonzo nor Chang teach or suggest a slidable manual controller adjacent to the vent openings to adjust closure of the openings. Toy is then cited for disclosing a manually slidable controller to control the amount of airflow through openings. Applicant respectfully submits that DiFonzo and Chang when taken with Toy fails to teach or suggest the present invention.

The present invention provides a portable computer system capable of warming a user's hands. The portable computer system includes a lid, the lid housing a display screen and a base, the base hingedly coupled to the lid and housing processing hardware beneath a keyboard unit. The base further includes an adjustable ventilation interface that allows an alteration to a direction of warm air dispersing heat generated by operation of the processing hardware. The ventilation interface includes a plurality of vent openings and a mechanical controller substantially adjacent to the plurality of vent openings to adjust closure of the plurality of vent openings. As described in the specification on page 5, line 18 to page 6, line 2, the adjustable ventilation interface is adjusted to open and closed positions to allow adjustment of the amount of warm air reaching a user's hands, i.e., in a minimum open position, the delivery of the warm air is maximized to a user's hands. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, and 12 to recite this aspect of the present invention more particularly.

In contrast to the present invention, the cited art, even when taken in combination, fails to teach a maximum delivery of warm air to a user's hands when an adjustable ventilation interface is in a minimum open position. Toy's manually slidable controller to control the amount of airflow through openings is described for use in an air freshener. As the controller is moved, it adjusts the openings, such that the closed position results in a minimum scent being received (e.g., col. 5, lines 40+). Therefore, even if the controller of an opening for scent delivery of Toy were somehow considered capable of being combined with Chang and DiFonzo, it would result in a minimum amount of warm air through the vents when the controller is in a closed position. Applicant respectfully submits that this directly contrasts the present invention and that there is nothing from the combination that teaches or suggests that a maximum delivery of warm air to a user's hands occurs when an adjustable ventilation interface is in a minimum open position, as now recited in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to teach, show, or suggest independent claims 1, 7, and 12.

Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 8-11, and 13-19 depend from one of the independent claims, and therefore include the features of one of the independent claims while adding further features. Thus, these claims are respectfully submitted as allowable for at least those reasons associated with claims 1, 7, or 12.

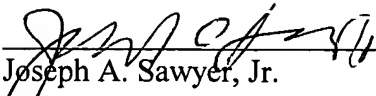
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

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Date



Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4540